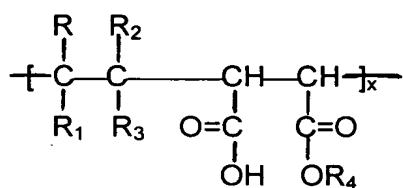
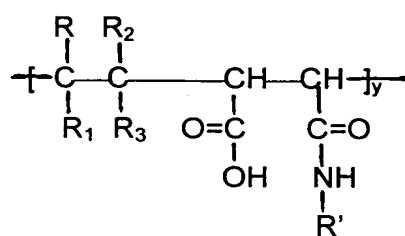


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

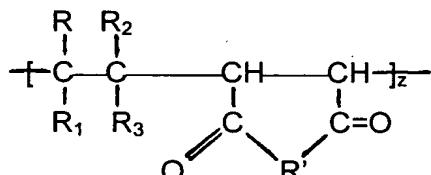
1. A personal care composition which includes a mixture of (A), a polymer characterized structurally by repeat units of (a) a monomer-maleic anhydride alkyl half-ester or full acid, (b) maleamic acid, and (c) maleimide, of the formulas:



(a) half-ester or full acid



(b) maleamic acid



(c) maleimide

where:

R, R₁, R₂ and R₃ are selected from H, alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, aryl, ester, acid, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, amido, amino, lactam, chloro, fluoro, halo and silyl, and R₄ is H or alkyl; and

R' is a derivatizing group selected from X, a hydrophobic amine; Y, a hydrophilic amine; and Z a polyether amine; and suitable mixtures thereof; wherein:

x, y and z are present, in mole %, of 0-99.9, 0-50 and 0.1-100, respectively; and X, Y and Z are present in mole ratios of 0-50:0-100:0-20, and (B) a compound or polymer having a carboxylic acid functionality.

2. A composition according to claim 1 wherein x = 0-50, y = 0-5 and z = 5-100.

3. A composition according to claim 1 wherein X, Y and Z are presenting a mole ratio of 0-10:40-98:1-10.

4. A composition according to claim 1 wherein:

X is a monofunctional α -unsubstituted primary or secondary monoamine;

Y is a hydroxy α -unsubstituted amine or alkyldiamine; and

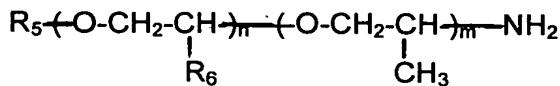
Z is a polyoxyalkylene amine.

5. A composition according to claim 1 wherein

X is a monofunctional α -unsubstituted primary or secondary monoamines, unsubstituted or substituted with alkyl, aryl, heterocyclic, aromatic, fluoro, silyl amino, carboxy and halogen; selected from C₁-C₄₀ alkyl NH₂; butylamine, isobutyl amine, and octadecylamine;

Y is a hydroxy α -unsubstituted amines selected from ethanolamine, isopropylamine, n-propanolamine, 3-amino-1-propanol; methoxyethyl amine, and diglycol amine; and silicone amine; and alkyl diamines, selected from 3-(dimethylamino) propylamine, dimethylethylene diamine, N-aminopropyl pyrrolidone, N-aminoethyl pyrrolidone, and 1-(3-aminopropyl)imidazole, and

Z is polyoxyalkylene amine, having the formula:



where R₅ and R₆ are selected from H and alkyl; and n and m are integers from 1-50.

6. A composition according to claim 5 wherein R₅ is CH₃ and R₆ is H.
7. A composition according to claim 5 wherein both R₅ and R₆ are CH₃.
8. A composition according to claim 5 wherein n = 32 and m = 10.
9. A composition according to claim 1 wherein, in (a), said monomer is an α -olefin.
10. A composition according to claim 1 wherein (B) is a crosslinked carboxylic acid containing polymer.
11. A composition according to claim 10 wherein (B) is a crosslinked acrylic acid polymer.
12. A composition according to claim 1 wherein (B) is a linear carboxylic acid containing polymer.
13. A composition according to claim 1 wherein (B) is an acrylic acid containing polymer.

14. A composition according to claim 1 wherein (A) and (B) are present and the mole ratio of maleimide in (A) to the carboxylic units in (B) is about 1:1.
15. A personal care composition according to claim 1 which is a hair care product exhibiting excellent high humidity curl retention.
16. A hair care composition according to claim 15 which is a styling, mousse, gel or spray hair care formulation.
17. A cosmetic or dermatological, film-forming composition according to claim 1 for producing a water-resistant film demonstrating excellent hold, and durability properties.
18. A composition according to claim 17 which is a mascara product exhibiting excellent high humidity and moisture resistance.